

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

supporting a human on a support surface, wherein the support surface has a seat portion and a back portion, and the seat portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported on the support surface; and

cleaning an anal region of the human by accessing the anal region, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, through an aperture in the support surface, wherein the aperture provides posterior access to the human and the aperture eliminates pressure on a portion of the human's buttocks between a left cheek and a right cheek.

46. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

supporting a human on a support surface, wherein the support surface has a seat portion and a back portion, and the seat portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported on the support surface; and

inspecting an area of the human selected from the group consisting of a lower spinal region and an anal region by accessing, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, the area of the human through an aperture in the support surface.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, further comprising:

administering medical services to the human through the aperture in the support surface.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein during the administering medical services someone other than the human treats a decubitus ulcer on the human.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:
administering medical services to the human through the aperture in the support surface.
50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein during the administering medical services someone other than the human treats a decubitus ulcer on the human.
51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising:
capturing a view of the human through the aperture, wherein the view is captured in the form of an electronic image and the view is capable of being used during the inspecting.
52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the electronic image is transmitted wirelessly to a display device.
53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein someone other than the human performs the inspecting.
- 54-59. (Cancelled)
60. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing posterior access to a sacral region of a human's anatomy, through an aperture in a support surface, the support surface having a seat portion and a back portion, wherein the seat portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported on the support surface, the access is from behind the support surface and the aperture relieves pressure on a portion of the human's anatomy, the portion includes the sacral region and an area between a left cheek and a right cheek of the buttocks below the human's spine.
61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising:

eliminating pressure on the sacral region of the human's anatomy.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising:
providing posterior access to a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.
63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising:
eliminating pressure on the lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.
64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising:
utilizing a privacy panel to obstruct a view of the human supported on the support
surface, wherein the privacy panel is releasably coupled with the support surface.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein a sloped portion of the
support surface is used to support the human's legs.
66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 60, wherein the support surface includes
arm rests that are sloped, such that the human's hand on an arm ~~can be~~is at a different
elevation than the human's elbow on the arm.
67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein a portion of the support
surface that supports the human's legs is flexibly coupled to a portion of the support surface
that supports the human's back
- 68-74. (Cancelled)
75. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a support surface having a seat portion and a back portion, wherein the seat portion
and the back portion form a non-planar surface and the seat portion is sloped to position a
human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported on the support
surface. the seat portion having an aperture opening toward the back portion so that when a

| the human is supported on the support surface the human's anus is positioned over the aperture, and the aperture provides access, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, to a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

76. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 75, wherein the back portion having an aperture that merges with the aperture in the seat portion.

77. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 75, further comprising:
means for viewing to view a portion of the human visible through the aperture.

78. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 75, further comprising:
means for privacy to limit a view of the human.

79. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 75, further comprising:
means for providing mobility to the support surface.

80. (Cancelled)

81. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 75, further comprising:
means for supporting the human's arms.

82. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 75, further comprising:
an armrest coupled with the support surface.

| 83. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 82, wherein the armrest is sloped.

84. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a seat portion having a first aperture; and

a back portion having a second aperture, wherein the seat portion and the back portion form a non-planar support surface to support a human and the seat portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported on the support surface, and the first aperture and the second aperture form a composite aperture in the support surface, so that the human's anus is proximate to the composite aperture, and the composite aperture provides access, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, to a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

85. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising:
means for viewing to view a portion of the human visible through the aperture.
86. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising:
means for privacy to limit a view of the human.
87. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising:
means for providing mobility to the support surface.
88. (Cancelled)
89. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising:
means for supporting the human's arms.
90. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising:
an armrest coupled with the support surface.
91. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 90, wherein the armrest
is sloped.
92. (Currently Amended) A support surface for a human comprising:
a back portion;

a seat portion having an aperture opening toward the back portion, wherein the seat portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported on the support surface; and

a frame coupling the seat portion with the back portion, so that when the human is supported on the support surface, the human's anus is proximate to the aperture, and the aperture provides access, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, to a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

93. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the back portion having an aperture that merges with the aperture in the seat portion.

94. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
means for viewing to view a portion of the human visible through the aperture.

95. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
means for privacy to limit a view of the human.

96. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
means for providing mobility to the support surface.

97. (Cancelled)

98. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
means for supporting the human's arms.

99. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
an armrest coupled with the support surface.

100. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 99, wherein the armrest is sloped.

101. (Previously Presented) A support surface for a human comprising:
a first portion having an aperture; and
a second portion flexibly coupled with the first portion, wherein the aperture extends toward the second portion and an angle between the first portion and the second portion is adjustable so that when the human is supported on the support surface the human's anus is proximate to the aperture, and the aperture provides access, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, to a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

102. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101, the second portion having an aperture that merges with the aperture in the first portion.

103. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:
means for viewing to view a portion of the human visible through the aperture.

104. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:
means for privacy to limit a view of the human.

105. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:
means for providing mobility to the support surface.

106. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101, wherein the first portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported on the support surface.

107. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:
means for supporting the human's arms.

108. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:
an armrest coupled with the support surface.
109. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 108, wherein the armrest is sloped.
110. (Previously Presented) A support surface for a human comprising:
a back portion having an aperture;
a seat portion having an aperture opening toward and merging with the aperture in the
back portion to form a composite aperture wherein the human's anus is to be positioned
proximate to the composite aperture;
a frame coupling the seat portion with the back portion;
means for viewing to facilitate viewing a portion of the human; and
means for privacy to limit a view of the human.
111. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 110, further comprising:
means for providing mobility to the support surface.
112. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 110, wherein the seat portion is sloped
to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported
on the support surface.
113. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 110, further comprising:
an arm rest having a front end and a back end, the front end configured higher than
the back end.